RG104 E-1 Box 134 Apr-July 1885

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 14th May —, 1885.

Sir,

Under your Instructions of 28th Mar. -85, emanating from the Director of the Mint, I distributed my operative force into three classes, to be marked 1, 2 and 3. The large majority of my men, being of the highest standard for skill, obedience and faithfulness to the Government Interests committed to them, were marked 1; those not quite attaining the higher standard were marked 2; and only one was marked 3. The last, John Keenan, was marked 3. because of his frequent absence from the Mint. He has absented himself 29 days since the beginning of the present fiscal year (1 July. 1884.), - 11 days since the 1st Jan. 1885, to 1st May, and six days since May 1.

While I gave a carefully considered opinion that my Department of the Mint could dispense with three hands, I regret to learn unofficially

that Hugh Hawkins was selected for discharge as one of the three, because I know of no one more conscientiously faithful and skilful in the performance of duties assigned to him. It is true that through grievous sickness he was absent two weeks in April, 1884, but prior to that he never lost more than one day for many years, (I find by the Record, since 1880), – a rare record this of faithfulness. I trust that if the two cases of Keenan and Hawkins are duly weighed, the two men might be allowed to exchange places, to the decided advantage of the public service.

If the discharge of Hawkins cannot be reconsidered, I certainly think that Keenan should be discharged for reckless disregard of duty.

Respectfully yours

I & C Booth

Melter & Refiner

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RG104 E-1 Box 134 Apr-July 1885

*Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,*

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

May 14th, 1885.

Booth.

*Melter and Refiner.*

In relation to the discharge of Hawkins

Recd May 14th 85.

*No. of Enclosures,*

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 134

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